



Cobb County Water System - Water Efficiency Program News - Winter 2015

Cobb Citizens and Businesses Demonstrate Commitment to Water Efficiency

This has been an exciting time for the Water Efficiency program. Cobb County is often recognized for its commitment to water efficiency, and recently several local businesses and students have demonstrated their commitment to responsible water stewardship. Cobb's Water Efficiency Program is proud to partner on these projects and recognize local champions of conservation.

In October, to celebrate USEPA WaterSense *Shower Better Month*, Cobb County Water System and Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, through our waterSmart program, began a project with Kennesaw State University (KSU) to retrofit the campus with high efficiency WaterSense labeled showerheads. Water Efficiency staff worked with KSU to test the products and has purchased 2,700 showerheads. KSU staff will install them during the winter break. When school is in session there is a potential savings of 13,000 gallons a day if each student takes a 5 minute shower. Flo, the USEPA spokesgallon, spent *Shower Better Month* in Cobb and visited KSU to kick off the program with students and through social media. (Continued on Page 3)

KSU students meet EPA spokesgallon "Flo" at a campus festival.



Upcoming Events

For information or to schedule a presentation visit www.cobbwater.org, email waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org, or call the Water Efficiency Office at 770-419-6244

2/18/15 - waterSmart Allatoona Ally Coloring Book Autograph Party

Celebrate our elementary school artists and see the coloring book.

Time: 4:00-5:30PM

Location: South Cobb Regional Library

2/26/15 - waterSmart H2O In HD Video Contest Red Carpet Premier

Celebrate our creative high school filmmakers and watch the premier of the videos.

Time: 6:00-8:00PM

Location: Cobb County Marietta Water Authority

3/21/15 - Third Annual Water Drop Dash 5K and Water Festival

Time: 8AM-11AM

Location: Chattahoochee Nature Center

March 16-22, 2015 - Fix a Leak Week

The USEPA WaterSense program has declared the second week of March *Fix a Leak Week* to inform citizens about the impact of water leaks, as well as how to detect and fix leaks. Throughout the month the Water Efficiency Program will have activities highlighting this important topic. Residents can receive free leak dye tabs and materials to change out leaking fixtures by e-mailing waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org or calling 770-419-6244. Educational information will be available on the website, TV23, and in the Cobb County Water System customer service lobby.

This semester, the Water Efficiency staff has visited more than 4,000 students at 25 schools. We always enjoy meeting new teachers and students, and getting the word out about protecting and conserving our water resources.

In order to truly instill an ethic of stewardship in our students, it is important to reach them throughout their educational careers, and to connect them to their natural resources through engaging and interactive programs. The Water Efficiency office has made an effort to do just that for Cobb County students by developing hands-on programs and interactive presentations that allow students to learn about conservation by solving real-world problems. This year we have reached a number of new students, including middle and high school classes, with our *Filtration Station*, *STEM for Streams*, and *Water Around the World* lessons.

The Water Efficiency office is also proud to support Cobb County students' independent projects by providing guest speakers and technical advisers. This fall, Kathy Nguyen visited Walton High School to speak to AP Environmental Science students about water efficient green building practices. The students were researching sustainable building in order to create hypothetical designs for SunTrust Park and the accompanying mixed-use development. The students were able to present their ideas to a number of local experts, school administrators, County officials, and a member of the SunTrust Park project team.

If you would like to schedule a program for your students, please contact the Water Efficiency office at waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org.



Walton High School students present their green designs to local experts and officials



Amy Warnock teaches Still Elementary 4th graders about the water cycle with the Incredible Journey program

Green School Update

This year is shaping up to be another big year for the Cobb County Green School program. We already have applications from 19 schools, including a few schools new to the program this year. Congratulations to Nickajack Elementary and Picketts Mills Elementary, which have already qualified for Green School status for 2014/15. Don't forget the Green School partners can help your teachers meet their Green School goals. Spring semester fills up quickly, so request your lessons early! You can learn more about the program, fill out an application for your school, or request lessons on the website:

<http://water.cobbcountyga.gov/Files/GreenSchool.html>

...Commitment continued

On October 30, 2014, Cobb Water hosted several county leaders, local sustainability professionals, and a representative from EPA for a ceremony recognizing Cobb's recently initiated Green Cities Program, a no-interest loan program for multi-family properties. CCWS provides funding up front to install high efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucet aerators, and the property pays the loan back over 36 months, with their costs being offset by the water savings on their bill. Cobb's first Green City property, Edinborough-Pine Valley Apartments, showed a dramatic reduction in water use, saving over 100,000 gallons a month. Gary Jordan, owner of Edinborough, was recognized at the ceremony where the property was praised for taking such a proactive role in their community. Mr. Jordan said, "I was skeptical; but this program is everything they promised and more. It has been a great experience." The Green Cities program brings together partners that Cobb's Water Efficiency program has worked with for years: Niagara Conservation and Green Plumbers USA. Trained Green Plumbers do the installations at the properties using products from Niagara Conservation, who oversee the project. At the October event Cobb was also able to present the prestigious *Green Plumber of the Year* Award to Nick Marine of Marine Plumbing, the lead green plumber on Cobb's Green Cities Program. This program is an excellent example of what happens when good partners and environmentally minded companies come together. For more info on the Green Cities program please visit www.greencitycobb.com.

Cobb County also benefits from educating our future leaders and decision makers, which Cobb Water and several local community experts have been doing this fall, working with Walton High School's AP Environmental Science classes. (Continued on Page 4)

Water Supply Update

Cobb County and the Metro Atlanta region face some unique water challenges. The Chattahoochee River that supplies millions of Atlantans, including Cobb citizens, with drinking water is one of the smallest rivers to serve a metropolitan area our size. We have recurring droughts and reduced recharge due to small lake watersheds, clay soils, increased evapotranspiration, and extreme rain events. We also have an ongoing legal dispute between Alabama, Florida, and Georgia over two river basins. Cobb County is in a unique position because we get our water from both contested basins. Recently, there have been significant developments in the legal issues that involve our water sources. Below are some links to get information on the history of these disputes and recent developments. These issues are critical for our future and CCWS believes understanding our water issues makes us stronger stewards of these valuable resources.

Overview of Issues and History:

<http://www.atlantaregional.com/environment/tri-state-water-wars>

ACF – Lake Lanier Supreme Court Case:

<http://wabe.org/term/tri-state-water-wars>

ACT – Allatoona Lake Court Case:

http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/rome/news/local/ga-cobb-county-sues-army-corps-of-engineers-over-water/article_d6a5c0e8-668d-11e4-8129-001a4bcf6878.html

http://www.mdjonline.com/view/full_story/26074525/article-Army-Corps-sued-over-Lake-Allatoona-s-drinking-water-supply-requests

<http://www.bna.com/georgia-sues-corps-n17179911545/>



Left to Right: Green Plumber of the Year Nick Marine, County Manager David Hankerson, Renea Hall with USEPA, Kathy Nguyen with Cobb Water, USEPA Spokesgallon Flo, Carl Wehmeyer with Niagara, Gary Jordan and Robin Franklin with Edinborough - Pine Valley Apartments, Commissioner JoAnn Birrell

...Commitment continued

Walton students used project-based learning to address a current environmental issue by researching and creating green designs for SunTrust Park and the proposed mixed-use development that will accompany the stadium. The students were asked to focus on reducing potable water use and runoff. Cobb Water staff, along with experts from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals and Southface Energy Institute, worked with the students as technical advisers. Seven classes presented designs to water experts from Cobb Water, Chattahoochee River Keeper, and Delon Hampton and Associates. Three were selected to present to Walton's administration, School District leaders, Commissioner Birrell, and Emmy Montanye from the Braves project team. A project like this is an excellent way for students to connect what they are learning to real world applications.

Cobb can't be a leader in water efficiency without the leadership of our local businesses, educators, citizens, and students. The county is fortunate to have so many partners and local water heroes.

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WINTER 2015

Cobb County Water System Water Efficiency Program

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Water Source Climate Update

This fall was a little drier than normal. Low temperatures and frequent, well distributed rain events reduced evapotranspiration rates and kept the soil moist, reducing demand for supplemental irrigation. Allatoona Lake has been drawn down for winter to increase capacity for flood storage, current level is 828 feet. Most local water bodies that feed the Chattahoochee River are in the normal streamflow range. Small areas of Georgia are currently in very dry or moderate drought status.

Water Restrictions Status: Non-Drought

For Irrigation: No watering between 10AM-4PM (No day of the week restrictions)

For other outdoor uses (car washing, pressure washing, etc.): Odd/even schedule (No hourly restrictions)

- Even and Unnumbered addresses: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays
- Odd addresses: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays

Rainfall Sept-Nov 2014

SEPT – 2.97 inches
OCT – 3.45 inches
NOV – 3.74 inches
YTD – 36.18 inches
AVG – 45.81 inches
SOIL MOISTURE- 7.53 inches

waterSmart is now accepting entries for the 3rd annual H2O in HD video contest!

Learn more at:
<http://watersmart.net/action/program4>



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